and AIR provides not only entertainment to a majority of the country but also provides information and education. Doordarshan operates 27 channels-5 All India Channels, 11 Regional Language Satellite Channels and 8 Hindi Belt Kendras, 1 International Channel and 2 Parliament Channels (DD-Lok Sabha and DD-Rajya Sabha). Except for the Hindi belt Kendras (DD-14 to DD-17 and DD-19 to DD-22) all other DD channels broadcast round the clock.

The flagship of Doordarshan i.e. DD-1 National, covering 79 percent of the land area and 90.7% population of the country has a mix of programmes on information, education and entertainment on its channel. Besides this DD-Bharati is an edutainment channel focusing primarily on health, art, culture and music. DD Sports, round the clock satellite channel caters to the sports loving viewers of the country. Doordarshan has recently launched direct to home service under the name "DD Direct +" which comprises 19 Doordarshan and 14 private TV channels besides 12 All India Radio channels.

Audience response at Children's Film Festival

1275. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had held the Children's Film Festival recently at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether Government had received immense response from the audience;

(c) if so, the details threof;

(d) the expenditure incurreed for this purpose;

(e) whether Government have any proposal to make Hyderabad a permanent venue for the purpose;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir. The 14th International Children's Film Festival was held at Hyderabad between 14th to 20th November, 2005.

(b) Yes, Sir. The International Children's Film Festival got a good response from the audience.

(c) The films screenings, which were held in 13 theatres, were well attended by Child and adult delegates. About 400 Child delegates from all over India (including 20 children each from Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur & Mizoram) attended the Festival. There was good coverage in the local press.

(d) A budget of Rs. 1.00 crore has been allotted to CFSI for this purpose. Besides this, the Government of Andhra Pradesh incurred expenditure towards hospitality, theatre rent, transportation, publicity etc.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Ministry of I&B *vide* their OM No. 305/37/97-F(F) dated 7-11-1997 declared Hyderabad as the permanent venue for International Children's Film Festival.

(g) Does not arise.

Review of Prasar Bharati Act

1276. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are re-thinking on Prasar Bharati Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Control on Pay-Channels

1277. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to control the pay-channels; and

(b) whether Government have given up the scheme to set-top-box; if so, the reasons therefor and the alternative steps being taken to stop exploitation of consumers by the channels and cable operators?